



REMARKS

Claims 1-10, 15 and 16 were pending in this application. Claims 2-10, 15 and 16 have been cancelled without regard to prejudice. Claims 17-29 have been added. Claims 1, and 17-29 are now pending. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is now requested.

In the Office Action mailed September 21, 2004, a restriction was raised regarding two proposed species: (a) a species drawn to creating a pictorial cancellation mark, and (b) a species drawn to providing and selecting a set of pictorial cancellation marks. On October 21, 2004, the Examiner and the attorney representing the Applicant spoke telephonically. In the conversation, the Examiner and the attorney agreed to modify claims in a manner to progress the application along toward allowability, and to assist in that regard, the Examiner pointed out two references for consideration (U.S. Patent No. 5,801,944, and U.S. Patent No. 5,748,484). The Applicant hereby offers amended claims to support that goal, resulting in a restructuring of the claims into one independent claim and the remainder of claims dependent, and in light of the remarks of the amendments and Examiner's comments, no restriction or election will be required. Without regard to prejudice, and solely to ensure that this communication is considered fully responsive, the Applicant offers the provisional election below although none is deemed necessary in light of the telephonic conversation with the Examiner.

PROVISIONAL ELECTION

Solely to comply with requirements to make this communication fully responsive, and without regard to prejudice, applicant provisionally elects to prosecute the proposed species (a),



corresponding to previously unamended claims 1-10, with subject matter incorporated from unamended claims 15 and 16.

CONCLUSION

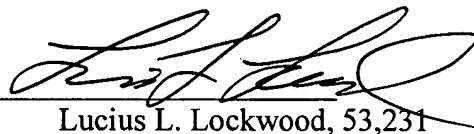
The Applicant believes that the claims as amended are allowable, and accordingly, the present application as amended is in condition for allowance. Allowance of amended claims 1 and 17-29 at an early date is solicited.

In the event the Examiner finds any impediment remaining to prompt allowance of this application which could be clarified by a telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to initiate the same with the undersigned attorney.

If there are any other fees necessary for this response those fees may be charged to Deposit Account 502509 and please notify us of the same, referencing reference number 38494-00157D.

Respectfully submitted

Date: October 21, 2004

By 

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